

Read March 22^d 1827
W. L. H.

An
Inaugural Dissertation
On
Hæmoptysis
By
Isaac Mitchell Price!

10/2 1897
H. B. M.

to
the
Hon. Secy.
of the
War Dept.

Haemoptysis.

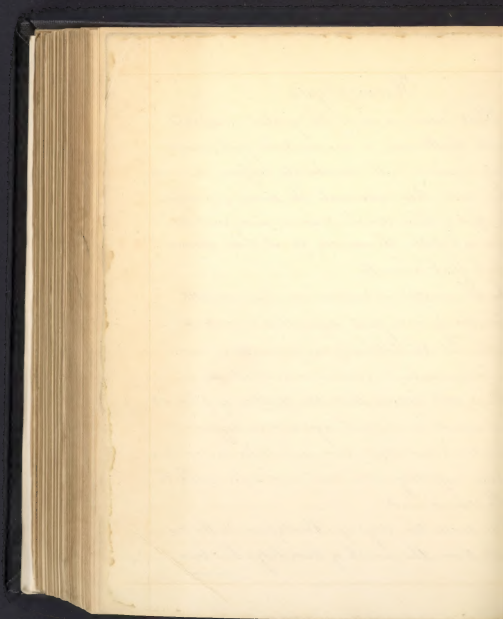
That disease is one of the greatest calamities which befalls man, is an irrefutable fact, which daily experience will abundantly confirm; it remains with those who make the science of medicine the object of their research, to discover and point out, as far as possible, the remedies for all these diseases, which flesh is heir to.

In the practice of medicine we have no little uncertainty, and great difficulties to contend with, but the labours of our predecessors, remain as way-marks, to guide and instruct us.

It is well known that the practice of physick has varied in different ages and in different countries, and that new discoveries are continually unfolding more direct and safer paths, to the desired end.

Ever since the days of Aesculapius, to the present time, the march of knowledge has been

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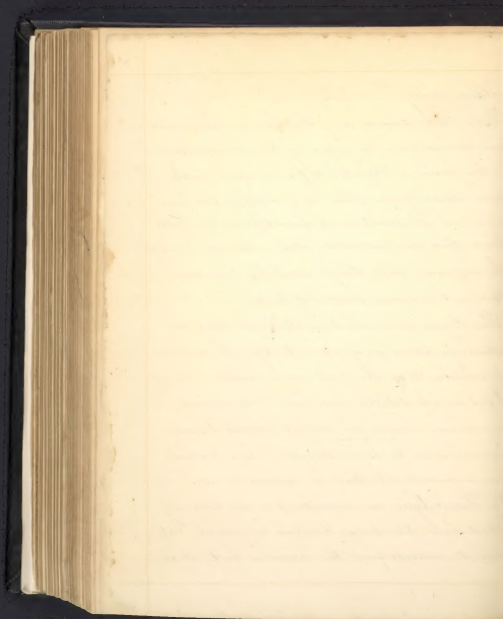
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certain, steady and rapid.

Now many thousands of the human race have been rescued from the grave by the discoveries of a Barbaque, a Physick, a Jenner, and a leath-
some disease given place to a modification, as mild in its operation, as harmless in its effects. From these and numerous other instances, it may be inferred that though much has been done, there yet remains something to do.

The disease on which I am to write being one attacking organs so essential to life, it should be considered of the first importance.

I feel myself totally incompetent to adduce any thing new on the subject which I have endeavoured to treat, though I hope I shall have performed all that is required of me.

By Hæmoptysis, we understand a discharge of blood from the lungs, trachea, or fauces; but when it proceeds from the second or last, it is



not of so serious a nature, though sometimes a bleeding from the trachea is not of little consequence.

We should always try to discover, whether the blood proceeds from the lungs or not; this we can easily ascertain, for where there is a discharge from the trachea or fauces, there are none of those febrile symptoms, pain or oppression at the breast, and there is no cough, but merely a hawking. If we look into the throat we can sometimes perceive it inflamed, but where it proceeds from the lungs, no such appearance is observable.

This disease is sometimes confounded with hæmatemesis, but if we attend to the symptoms of either disease, it is by no means difficult to distinguish them from each other; for in hæmatemesis, the blood is brought up by vomiting, in larger quantities, and is generally of a darker

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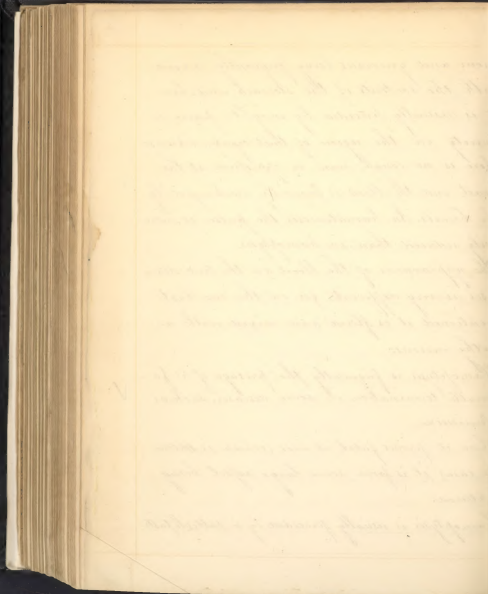
colour and grumous, being frequently mixed with the contents of the stomach, and here it is usually preceded by weight, pain, or anxiety in the region of that organ; likewise there is no cough, pain, or oppression at the breast, and the blood is frequently discharged by the bowels. In hamatemesis, the pulse is more easily reduced than in hamoptysis.

The appearance of the blood in the two diseases is very different, for in the one last mentioned it is florid and mixed with a frothy mucus.

Hamoptysis is frequently the presage of a favourable termination in some diseases, such as pleuritis &c. V

When it proves fatal at once (which is seldom the case) it is from some large vessel being ruptured.

Hamoptysis is usually preceded by a saltish



in the mouth, a sense of weight about the tra-
chea and pain in some part of the throat.
Sometimes it is preceded by a sense of weight and
oppression at the breast. An dry tickling cough
and difficulty of breathing: While at other times
it comes on with shivering, coldness of the extre-
mities, pains in the back and loins, flatulency,
costiveness and lassitude.

Causes. The principal causes of this disease, are
sudden vicissitudes of heat and cold, it may
be occasioned by violent exercise, as running,
wrestling, jumping lifting heavy weights;
or by sudden bursts of laughter, singing or
speaking very loud and blowing on wind
instruments.

Dr. Rush may seldom ever saw this disease in
those persons who had been instructed early V
in vocal music. He also remarks that City
watchmen public criers lawyers and players



are less affected by the disease than persons of other
occupations.

It generally happens to persons undressed to
consumption and in those of weak constitutions.
Persons who have a delicate frame sanguineous
temperament nervous crest nervous should
dye and live with an "indistinctly" habit
to anemorrhage. What is worthy of notice is that it
generally makes its appearance at night while
the patient is asleep.

Besides the causes above enumerated it is attributed
to wounds, lacerations, and various other
injuries, but to the absence of some
customary evacuations such as the haemorrhoidal
or menstrual discharge. It may be produced
by inflammation of the lungs, as in pneumonia
or in an abscess occurring without any
known cause.

It is caused sometimes by a metastasis.



likewise by tubercles here it is of a venous nature,
and it frequently terminates in pulmonary
consumption!

The Treatment. Various astringent remedies have
been employed in hæmoptoe, but before any of
them can be used advantageously natural
actions must be reduced, for this purpose
venesections should be had recourse to, and we
must not be satisfied with taking away
small quantities of blood, but we should
bleed untill we make a decided impression
on the pulse.

Notwithstanding the authority of Dr. Mead
of London, who objects to the bloodlet, it is
certainly one of the most efficacious means
that can be employed for checking the
flow of blood. We can never derive any
advantage from astringents, where we
have a hard, tense pulse; it is true we can



in the moment likewise external action
by other means such as nautating doses of
laquei cardiaci & camphora which are very
great remedies and will in the longer action
assist.

Sometimes topical bleeding with cups or leech
as may become necessary when the pulse
will not be general bleeding.

In the next place should the bleeding continue
the chloride of sodium should be given in
the dose of from two to four drachms, every
hour or fifteen minutes according to the urgency
of the case. In the mean time we should
use cold applications to different parts of
the body, and particularly to the breast, V
armpits, scrotum and back of the neck.

Dr. Dunder speaks of douching cold water
over the body of the patient, but of the
consequence of such a practice I am unable



unacquainted.

A highly useful remedy and one which should by no means be neglected is, purging and the Glander on these sorts is not much use and general to be preferred to any other of the cathartic medicines.

The beds of the patient has been immersed in cold water by some practitioners, but I think that would not be a much service unless it should be continued for a considerable length of time, which would be apt to prove hazardous to the patient.

I'd think haemorrhages of the lungs, and when it has become habitual, is not ill has been recommended by some writers, but it should by no means be used in such instances as the above mentioned take the place of the latter as it requires a much longer time to produce its effects.



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The sugar of Lead has for a long time
been employed in hemorrhoids, and when
given in the dose of from one to two or
three grains, combined with small quan-
tities of Gum, it has been found very
efficacious in arresting the hemorrhage.
It is best adapted to profuse cases,
and should be repeated every hour or two
hours according as the case demands it.

Alum has also been recommended in ha-
morrhoids and it is certainly one of the
most powerful of the class of astringents.
Opium has been considered an excellent
remedy in some cases, there are other nar-
cotics, such as the hyosciamus and cicuta,
but I should be inclined to think that
the opium would be preferable as it an-
swers best in doing away irritation which
is of great importance frequently.



Throughout the whole course of the disease.

The Locusts should be kept open.

As I have detailed them, such are the remedies which are negative for the removal

of the active stage of haemorrhysis; but sometimes it degenerates into a passive or of a weak excitement of the system,

as it may assume that appearance from the first, and here we must pursue directly an opposite kind of treatment: For instead

of depleting the system we should use such remedies as are calculated to arouse and strengthen it. For this purpose tonics such as the Peruvian Bark and Chalybeates are to be used.

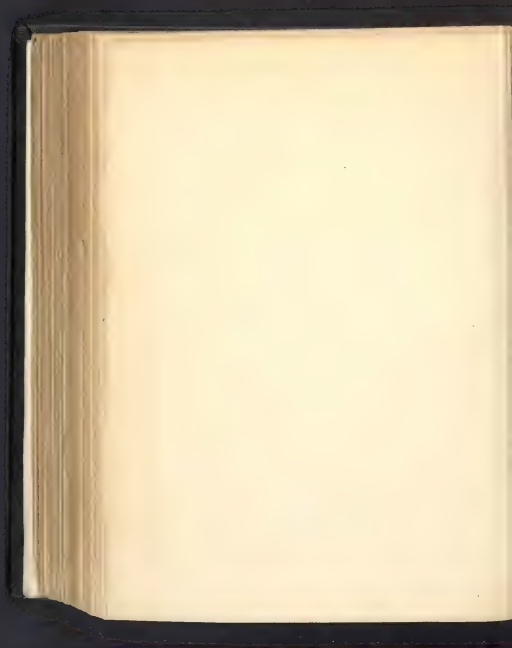
Now it is that the mineral acids are given with advantage, the best of which is the nitric. But in the more active form it must be restricted that the sulphuric is always



to be insured.

The most subtle asthenics such as the wine and cataplasms have been suggested by some, but for my own part I would prefer the succeeding medicine. However if those that I have mentioned should fail of affording relief they should certainly have a trial Exercise on horseback or that of sailing or swimming should be resorted to assist the other remedies in strengthening the system. Ball liquors, such as port and sherry may be taken by the patient and his diet should be light but it should also be nourishing.

I have now given what I consider the best means of combating an attack of paralysis but still there are other circumstances to be attended to. For where there is a predisposition to the disease it is very



different parts of the body and particularly to the throat. They should be considered as very important matters and should be so means to be used.

We may likewise employ sinapisms to the neck and wrists, but they are not to be resorted to often.

In all cases of over-heating of the lungs, the patient should avoid smoking as much as possible, besides all company except such as are absolutely necessary should be excluded.

He should be confined to bed with his shoulders elevated, the room should be kept cool and well ventilated. The diet should be small quantities of some nutrient soup. The best drinks are a pint in such a situation are lemonade, orange juice, water and other cool beverages.



Clysters have been used by some practitioners for the purpose of checking a discharge of blood from the lungs, but if they are given in such doses as to produce nausea, they are far more efficacious, and should never be overlooked.

For this purpose the tartarized antimony may be given in the dose of the sixteenth or eighteenth of a grain according to the effect it produces.

Puracuanha, also, given in nauseating doses is highly recommended by Dr. Chapman. He gives it in the dose of two grains combined with half a grain of opium, to be repeated according to circumstances.

Aster, in small and frequent repeated doses will be found useful in bleeding over.

Should the remedies which I have mentioned be found to be insufficient to stop the hæmorrhage, Clysters should be applied to

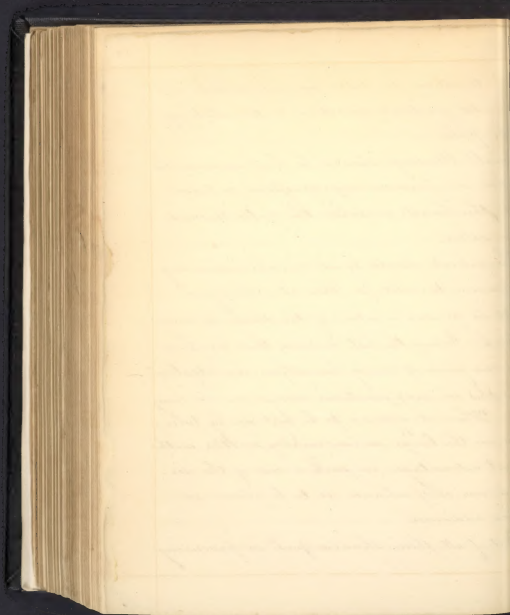


apt to return; to guard against which, we should particularly attend to the state of the pulse.

Small bleedings should be had recourse to when we perceive any oppression or pain at the breast, or when the pulse becomes too active.

The patient should by all means avoid any exposure to cold, for there is nothing so apt to produce a return of the disease, as a causer. Among the last remedies that we have in our power of curing hamoptysis, is a ptyalism; by this we may sometimes succeed in removing it. When it appears to be kept up by tubercles in the lungs, we can employ smother, with great advantage; in such a case of the disease, our chief reliance is to be placed in these medicines.

But if all these should fail in procuring



the patient a state of health, a sea voyage
or a removal to a warm climate should
be recommended.

